

and in the spirit of her people, Canada has reached a stage that few nations attain before centuries of growth.

Every Liberal reviews with pride and satisfaction the contribution his party has made, and is continuing to make in the work of building up this great Dominion along the broad lines I have outlined.

Before concluding, I wish to say, Sir, that I esteem it the greatest privilege of my life that my fellow citizens, English and French, have given me a mandate to take part in the proceedings of this House, although at the same time I feel deeply the heavy responsibility which they have thereby placed on my shoulders. The role of a public man, especially in a country with a mixed population like ours, is both complex and difficult, I shall, however, endeavour to render myself worthy of it, in following the brilliant example of those great men who have preceded me in this House, and inspiring me with their lofty ideals of patriotism, honour and loyalty.

I desire now to quote an adaptation of the great English poet, Alfred Tennyson :

“ Shall we not thro' good and ill,  
Cleave to one another still.  
Canada's myriad voices call  
Sons be welded each and all,  
Into one Imperial whole,  
One with Canada heart and soul ;  
One life, one flag, one fleet, one throne,  
Canadians, hold your own.”

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). Mr. Speaker, let me in the first place pay a tribute of respect to the memory of one of our colleagues who sat on this side of the House, the late Mr. Simmons, member for the east riding of Lambton, who, although his voice was not very often heard in this House was nevertheless recognized by every one of us as a man of strong, shrewd common sense, excellent business abilities and whose kindly and genial disposition endeared him, I am sure, to every member of this House whether he sat to the right or the left of the Speaker.

Let me also join in the congratulations expressed by my hon. friend who has just taken his seat, to my right hon. friend the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) on the complete restoration of his health. I am sure that however we may be divided in our party sympathies or affiliations, there is no man on the other side of the House more ready or anxious to congratulate my right hon. friend than is every member who sits on the left of the Speaker. Let me also say that I desire most sincerely and heartily to congratulate the mover and seconder of this address. My hon. friend Mr. Grant—I beg his pardon, I should say the hon. member for North Ontario—I got into the habit of referring to him as Mr. Grant during a little campaign in that county, and had the result of that campaign been as I then desired, it would have pre-

vented me from enjoying the acquaintance of that hon. gentleman in this House. I became a very good friend of that hon. gentleman on that occasion and I trust that these friendly relations will always continue notwithstanding our political differences. I congratulate him upon the graceful and very well worded speech which he has made to-day, although I am sure he cannot expect me to coincide absolutely with every sentence contained in it. I desire also to congratulate my hon. friend who has just taken his seat, the hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. Rivet) upon the polished speech which he has delivered in his own language and I trust I am not saying too much in that regard, although I am somewhat a novice in that beautiful language which he speaks so perfectly. But specially let me congratulate him on the fluency with which he has addressed us in the English tongue, and I may say that the command of that language which he has evinced this afternoon almost puts to shame some of the members of this House who claim that language as their mother tongue. Now, my hon. friend from North Ontario seems very desirous indeed that the suggestion in the speech from the Throne that we should have a short session should be fully carried out. Let me point out to my hon. friend and to the hon. member for Hochelaga that they do not seem to be very desirous of accomplishing that end themselves, because, while complimenting them on the excellent addresses they have made, I have not failed to notice that they seemed desirous of arguing all over again in this debate upon the address, the question of the transcontinental railway. I would have thought that my hon. friend from North Ontario, at least, had had enough of the argument of the details of that measure during the last two months of the past session, but it appears that he has not had enough of it, and he has extended a very plain invitation to hon. gentlemen on this side of the House to argue once more, in the debate upon the address and before the question has been reached on the order paper, not only the principle but the details of the measure which was so thoroughly discussed during the past session.

I can hardly think that my hon. friend from North Ontario could be sincere in the hope which he has expressed as to the probable length of the session. Let me say however that I do most sincerely congratulate my hon. friend from North Ontario upon the boldness with which he referred to certain matters as to which both my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Hon. Mr. Fielding) and my right hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Rt. Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright) should be somewhat sensitive. He referred to a revenue tariff which he says is a great